



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

## Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs (ACVBA) Meeting Minutes June 2, 2022

Location of Meeting: Virtual – Microsoft Teams

### Members Present:

- Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator, Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD), U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Rob Bailey, Chairman, ACVBA, and President, Bailey Information Tech Cons, LLC
- Kandis Porter, Founder & Managing Director, Effective Flow Connections, LLC
- Joe Sharpe, Director, National Veterans Employment & Education Division, The American Legion
- Glenett Hannah, CEO/President, Hannah Innovative Solutions
- Fran Perez-Wilhite, Program Manager, North Carolina Military Business Center
- Melissa Washington, CEO & Founder, Women Veterans Alliance
- Jorge Rodriguez, CEO, Steri-Tech Medical Innovations, LLC.
- Lynn Lowder, Co-Founder & CEO, Veterans Business Project

1. **Call To Order** – The regular meeting of the ACVBA was called to order at 9:00 AM ET on June 2, 2022, by Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator, OVBD, SBA.
2. **Welcoming Remarks** – Larry Stubblefield – The meeting began by remembering and honoring the life of former ACVBA chairman and member, Michael Zacchea, who passed away in April 2022. Larry recognized his contributions and work he did on behalf of veterans.
3. **Opening Comments by ACVBA Chairman** – Rob Bailey – The committee has met and have a consensus on a few areas of focus for this year:
  - i. Procurement, Policy, and Strategy that revolves around the administration’s Executive Orders for the underserved which the veterans’ business owners evolved in that group.
  - ii. Sub-contracting Policy and Governance – A lot of concerns revolve around subcontracting plans and not being invoked as written into contract.
  - iii. Access to Capital – Why is it hard for veteran owned small businesses to get access to capital?
  - iv. The Simplified Acquisition Threshold, FAR Part 13 – ACVBA looks forward to



working with the various agencies on their initiatives, their policies, revolving around knocking down barriers and allowing the small business communities to thrive.

#### 4. Presentations

a. **Presentation 1 – OVBD Updates – Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator, OVBD, SBA**

- i. Expansion of the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) Program– Provided details on expanding the VBOC program ). The VBOC expansion is funding dependent. Currently, there are 22 VBOCs that serves all fifty states and territories. OVBD is looking to expand by twelve to bring the total number to 34 VBOCs that will serve all 50 states.
- ii. Center for Verification & Evaluation (CVE) Transfer Update -- FY 21 National Defense Authorization Act mandated that the VA's CVE functions move from the VA to the SBA and be established no later than January 1, 2023. Currently, veteran small businesses can compete for set-aside contracts at the VA through the Veterans First Contracting Program and businesses must be verified as a VOSB or SDVOSB to participate and receive their verification through VA's CVE. In addition, SDVOSB can self-certify through SAM.gov. With the transition from the VA to SBA, SBA will now house all certification programs and businesses will need to become certified as VOSBs or SDVOSBs through the SBA. If you are a VOSB or SDVOSB and your recertification is up for renewal within 120 days of December 2022, you should start the recertification process with the VA and your certification will transfer to the SBA. If you are not up for recertification between now and the transfer date, there is no action needed. Your certification status will carry over to the SBA. If you are self-certified, you will need to become certified through the SBA once the transition happens or become certified through the VA now. More information is available on SBA's website: <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/veteran-assistance-programs>

b. **Presentation 2 – VA Small Business Goal Performance for Fiscal Year 2022 & Strategic Outreach & Communications Update – Sharon Ridley, Executive Director, Acquisition Policy Office of Small & Disadvantage Business Utilization, Department of Veteran Affairs**

- i. Fiscal Year Goals and Performances: VA reported \$14.4B in total procurement to the Federal Procurement Data System, compared to \$15.1B for the same period in FY 2021.
- ii. Strategic Outreach Update: Expansion of procurement readiness training opportunities with the State and Federal Government.
- iii. Collaboration with Department of Defense: Conduct monthly Transition Assistance Program (TAP) briefings.
- iv. Current and New Training:



- Capabilities Statement Workshop
  - Doing Business with the Department of Veterans Affairs Webinar Series
  - Vet Talk Procurement Readiness Webinar Series
  - Partnering Opportunities: Teaming, Subcontracting and Joint Ventures
  - (PILOT) Teaming Workshop
  - Diversifying Your Portfolio Series
  - Let's Get Social: Using the Power of Social Media to Market your Business
- v. Direct Access Program (DAP): Since December 1, 2021, 20 virtual events conducted, contract opportunities for a variety of business lines, and prospects. To view the entire list of upcoming events, visit <https://www.vetbiz.va.gov/events/>.
- vi. CVE: Continues to support all requests for information from SBA in relation to Verification Program transition.

c. **Presentation 3 – Contracting Opportunities for Veterans in Corporate America and Private Sector Certification – Matthew Pavelek, President & CEO at National Veteran-Owned Business Association (NaVOBA):** A non-profit organization with two thirds of the board of directors are corporations. NaVOBA works with their partner organizations, but the primary intent is to make sure that corporate supplier diversity programs that want to be inclusive of veterans.

- i. NaVOBA's mission is to facilitate corporate contracting opportunities for America's veteran's and service-disabled veteran's business enterprises (VBEs/SDVBEs) through certification, advocacy, outreach, recognition, and education.
- ii. NaVOBA's vision is to be the channel for America's VBEs and SDVBEs to become sustainable participants and contributors to U.S. and Global Corporate Supply Chains.
- iii. Their research shows 95% of Americans feel a sense of gratitude; 2/3 of Americans prefer to purchase from a veteran-owned company -- Driving Corporate Bottom Lines; veterans are 45% more likely to take the plunge into entrepreneurship than people with no active-duty military experience; veteran-owned businesses are 30% more likely to have hired a veteran than a non-veteran owned company.
- iv. NaVOBA's exclusive Marching Forward Mondays program (MFM) is an ongoing series of virtual meetings between NaVOBA's Certified VBEs/SDVBEs and NaVOBA's Corporate Allies. These sessions are segmented into four distinct categories: VBE Showcase, Corporate Ally Engagement NaVOBA EDU and NaVOBA Podcast.
- v. In April of 2019, NaVOBA joined the National Business Inclusion Consortium joining our partners at the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), US Black Chamber of Commerce (USBCCC), US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce (USPAAC), WEConnect International, Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), and the Women's Business Enterprise



National Council (WBENC).

- vi. NaVOBA recently launched its exclusive sourcing tool giving Corporate Allies and Certified VBEs/SDVBEs access to the first accessible database of certified veteran owned businesses. It is exclusive to certified VBE and SDVBE. It automatically generates a one-page capability statement for every veteran once they put their information in there. Any potential buyer can get that capability statement and share with whomever they want to. To participate go to [www.NaVOBA.org/welcome](http://www.NaVOBA.org/welcome) for certification information or call (724) 362-8622.

**d. Presentation 4 – Madison Services Group, Inc. & Women Veterans Business Coalition Elizabeth Sullivan & Ann Sullivan Updates:**

- i. Veteran Legislative Actions:
  - a. **Senate** – SBC passage: S. 3564, Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2022: Formally authorize the Boots to Business program for 5 years and codifies the goals and requirements of the program.
  - b. **House** – H.R. 7500, Fiscal Year 2022 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act (Rep. Allred) • H.R. 5754, Patient Advocate Tracker Act (Rep. McClain) • H.R. 6604, Veterans Eligibility to Transfer School (VETS) Credit Act (Rep. Buchanan) • S. 2687, Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021 (Sen. Tester) • H.R. 6376, Student Veteran Work Study Modernization Act (Rep. Axne) • H.R. 7153, Department of Veterans Affairs Principles of Benefits Automation Act (Rep. Bost) • H.R. 7335, MST Claims Coordination Act (Rep. Luria) • H.R. 6961, Dignity for MST Survivors Act (Rep. Mrvan) • H.R. 2724, VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act (Rep. Delgado) • S. 4089, Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program Restoration and Recovery Act (Sen. Durbin) • H.R. 6052, VA OIG Training Act (Rep. Underwood) • S.2102, Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act (Sen. Boozman).
- ii. Agency Equity Action Plans:
  - a. VA: Identified Barrier - Veterans First program has reduced opportunities available through other programs such as women-owned small business (WOSB) and small disadvantaged businesses (SDB).
  - b. Proposed Actions: Increase contract awards to WOSBs and SDBs, increase VA's goal for SDBs to 10.2% in FY2022.
  - c. SBA: Proposed Actions – Increase government contracts to SDBs from 11% to 15% by FY2025 and increase SDB participation in contracting programs.
- iii. VA/SBA Congressional Budget Justification for FY2023:
  - a. VA: Budget focuses on medical care, VA workforce, Electronic Health Records Modernization (EHRM), VA facilities.
  - b. Expand VA enhanced enrollment for health care from 5 to 10 Years.
  - c. Eliminate veteran cost-sharing for certain mental health outpatient visits.



- d. Supportive services for very low-income veterans' families.
  - e. SBA: Focus on CVE transfer – \$20 million to manage transition and maintain the program.
  - f. SBA wants new CVE system running by Sep 1. Kickoff set for Jan 1, 2023.
  - g. VBOC Program – Expand program from 22 to 34 locations.
  - iv. Senate Small Business Committee passed 4 bills, head to full Senate for a vote:
    - a. S. 3564, Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2022.
    - b. S. 3595, One Stop Shop for Small Business Compliance Act of 2022.
    - c. S.3906, Small Business Broadband and Emerging Information Technology Enhancement Act of 2022.
    - d. S. 1687, Small Business Cyber Training Act of 2021.
  - v. House Small Business Committee passed 7 bills head to the full House for a vote:
    - a. H.R. 7352, PPP, and Bank Fraud Enforcement Harmonization Act of 2022.
    - b. H.R. 7334, COVID-19 EIDL Fraud Statute of Limitations Act of 2022.
    - c. H.R. 7622, Small Business Workforce Pipeline Act of 2022d). H.R. 7664.
  - vi. Supporting Small Business and Career and Technical Education Act of 2022
    - a. H.R. 7670, Women-Owned Small Business Program Transparency Act.
    - b. H.R. 5879, HUBZone Price Evaluation Preference Clarification Act of 2021.
    - c. H.R. 7694, The Strengthening Subcontracting for Small Businesses Act of 2022.
  - vii. Other veteran entrepreneurship legislation:
    - a. H.R. 6527, Driving Veterans Success Act (Rep. Michelle Steele and Rep. Katie Porter). Establishes a Veterans Enterprise Program to require the Department of Transportation to set a goal of ensuring that at least 10% of federal highway and transit contracts go to veteran- owned small businesses
  - viii. Small Business Contracting Updates: GSA Polaris: FY2023 NDAA Schedule; DoD, Final Rule; SBA Updates WOSB/EDWOSB NAICS Codes; Hearings.
5. The next meeting will be held September 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. ET. Platform to be determined.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. ET by Laura Wages.

